

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video decoding method for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which compose a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether the pixel values which compose the video are significant or not, and outputting at least one of the pixel values and the shape values, which are respectively obtained by decoding the stream, comprising:

judging whether or not the stream includes the information obtained by coding the pixel values which compose the video; and

not displaying decoded pixel values on a video display unit, when the stream does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

2. The video decoding method of Claim 1 comprising: converting the decoded shape values into shape values which are not displayed to output the same, when the stream does not include any information obtained by coding the pixel values.

3. A video decoding method for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which composes a video and information obtained

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by coding shape values indicating whether the pixel values which composes the video are significant or not, and outputting at least one of the pixel values and the shape values, which are respectively obtained by decoding the stream, comprising:

outputting predetermined values as the decoded pixel values, when the stream does not include any information obtained by coding the pixel values.

4. The video decoding method of Claim 1 comprising: outputting a signal which inhibits displaying the decoded result on the video display unit, when the stream does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

5. The video decoding method of Claim 1 wherein the video is one of videos of objects which compose a foreground with respect to a background.

6. A video decoding method for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which composes a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether the pixel values which compose the video are significant or not, and handling the stream, comprising:

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judging whether or not the stream includes the information obtained by coding the pixel values which composes the video; and

not decoding the stream, when the stream does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

7. A video decoding apparatus comprising:

a video decoder for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which composes a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether the pixel values which compose the video are significant or not, and outputting at least one of pixel values and shape values, which are respectively obtained by decoding the stream; and

a display controller for judging whether or not the stream includes the information obtained by coding the pixel values which compose the video, and exerting a control not to display the pixel values as the output of the video decoder, when the stream does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

8. The video decoding apparatus of Claim 7 wherein the video is one of videos of objects which compose a foreground with respect to a background.

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9. A video decoding program storage medium which contains a video decoding program implementing a video decoding method for receiving a stream including at least one of information obtained by coding pixel values which compose a video and information obtained by coding shape values indicating whether the pixel values which compose the video are significant or not, and outputting at least one of pixel values and shape values, which are respectively obtained by decoding the stream,

said video decoding program implementing the video decoding method comprising:

judging whether or not the stream includes the information obtained by coding the pixel values which compose the video; and

not displaying decoded pixel values on a video display unit, when the stream does not include any information which is obtained by coding the pixel values.

10. The video decoding program storage medium of Claim 9 wherein

the video is one of videos of objects which compose a foreground with respect to a background.

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